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Activists appeal for a \$15 minimum wage near the Capitol in Washington, Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021. Associated Press

Poll: Many pessimistic about improving standard of living

By CORA LEWIS
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — More than half of Americans believe it's unlikely younger people today will have better lives than their parents, according to a new poll from the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Most of those polled said that raising a family and owning a home are important to them, but more than half said these goals are harder to achieve compared with their parents' generation. That was particularly true for younger people — about seven in 10 Americans under 30 think homeownership has become harder

to achieve. About half of those polled also said it's hard for them to improve their own standards of living, with many citing both economic conditions and structural factors. Josean Cano, 39, a bus operator in Chicago who is Hispanic, said he's had a harder time economically than his parents.

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A.T.A. awarded the first "Destination Resilience Award" from Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association



Project announced for beautification of Hooiberg



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Poll: Many pessimistic about improving standard of living

Continued from Front

He mentioned inflation, high housing costs, and the recent baby formula shortage as examples.

"Things have doubled and tripled in price," he said. "We're not talking about gym shoes or concert tickets. We're talking about essentials. Six months ago, you couldn't find PediaSure. And if you could find it, it would be \$20. It used to be \$11 at Target."

Cano also pointed to the fact that the real purchasing power of the minimum wage was higher for previous generations and that rents and the cost of education were more reasonable.

According to the Economic Policy Institute, the federal minimum wage in 2021 was worth 34% less than in 1968, when its purchasing power peaked.

"Many people perceive their options are less than what they had in the past," said University of Chicago professor Steven Durlauf, who studies inequality and helped construct the study. "A lot of sense of well-being has to do with relative status, not absolute status."

The study also showed marked partisan disagreements over whether structural factors contribute to



A young man reads on the Howard University campus July 6, 2021, in Washington.

Associated Press

social mobility.

Democrats were more likely than Republicans to say that factors such as parents' wealth, the community one lives in, college education, race and ethnicity, and gender greatly affect one's social mobility. Black and Hispanic adults were also more likely than white adults to say a college education, race and ethnicity, and gender are very important factors.

Acacia Barraza, 35, who lives in Las Lunas, New Mexico and works as an

employee services coordinator, said she was more optimistic about social mobility for Hispanic Americans before the election of former President Donald Trump. Barraza is Hispanic and Native American.

"Before, I would have thought we had made progress," she said. "That we'd be able to have more and be more. But we're battling the same battles our parents did. Trump brought it back to the forefront."

Barraza said that student

debt, which she and her husband both have, has made raising a family and working towards buying a house more difficult.

According to Department of Education data, average student loan debt has increased for all generations, reaching record highs. Of adults under 30 who have a bachelor's degree or higher, 49% have student loan debt. Federal borrowers 24 and younger owe an average of \$14,434, those aged 25 to 34 owe an average debt of

\$33,570, and those aged 35 to 49 owe an average federal debt of \$43,208.

Mark Claffey, 52, who is disabled, white, and lives in Logan, Ohio, said that "everything costs more" now than it did for his parents' generation.

"Back then you could make something on a limited budget," he said. "You could do more with less. Bread cost less than a dollar."

Now, Claffey says he and his wife find themselves squeezed at the end of the month on their fixed income budgets. He also thinks the country is more divided and polarized along partisan lines than in previous eras.

Compared with younger people, Americans aged 60 or older are more likely to believe it's easier for them to achieve a good standard of living compared with their parents, the poll found.

Only 35% of adults over 60 said it is "much or somewhat harder" to achieve a good standard of living, compared with 54% of adults aged 18-29.

The poll also found that Black Americans have a more positive outlook on upward mobility for future generations than white Americans. □



A passenger wears a face mask to help prevent the spread of the new coronavirus as he waits for a Delta Airlines flight at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in Atlanta on Feb. 18, 2021.

Associated Press

By **DAVID KOENIG AP Airlines Writer**

Airlines will be required to give flight attendants at least 10 hours off duty between shifts, one more

hour than currently, under a rule announced Tuesday by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Acting FAA Administrator Billy Nolen said that the ex-

U.S. to require more rest between shifts for flight attendants

tra hour of rest would contribute to safety.

The rule goes into effect in 30 days, and airlines have up to 90 days to comply. Congress directed the FAA in 2018 to increase the rest requirement for flight attendants and eliminate a provision that let crews work with less rest under some circumstances.

"It took us way too long, but we are finally here," Nolen said at a news conference at Reagan Washington National Airport, where he was flanked by more than a dozen flight attendants. Current federal rules allow flight attendants to work

up to 14 hours in a day and get nine hours of rest between shifts.

The Association of Flight Attendants has fought for years for a longer break between shifts. The union thought it had prevailed four years ago, when Congress voted by large margins to require more rest. The union's president, Sara Nelson, appeared with Nolen at the news conference and accused the Trump administration of attempting to kill the expansion through regulatory foot-dragging.

Union officials have pointed to a 2020-2021 increase

in incidents involving unruly passengers as demonstrating the need to give cabin crews more rest between shifts.

Airlines have reported fewer incidents since the federal requirement to wear face masks on flights ended in April.

"This is a small handful of people making it hell for flight attendants on the front lines," Nelson said.

The FAA took public comments on the extra rest requirement in both 2019 and 2021 and received more than 1,000 comments from airlines, flight attendants and the public. □

White House unveils artificial intelligence 'Bill of Rights'

By **GARANCE BURKE**
Associated Press

The Biden administration unveiled a set of far-reaching goals Tuesday aimed at averting harms caused by the rise of artificial intelligence systems, including guidelines for how to protect people's personal data and limit surveillance. The Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights notably does not set out specific enforcement actions, but instead is intended as a White House call to action for the U.S. government to safeguard digital and civil rights in an AI-fueled world, officials said.

"This is the Biden-Harris administration really saying that we need to work together, not only just across government, but across all sectors, to really put equity at the center and civil rights at the center of the ways that we make and use and govern technologies," said Alondra Nelson, deputy director for science and society at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. "We can and should expect better and demand better from our technologies."

The office said the white paper represents a major advance in the administration's agenda to hold technology companies accountable, and highlighted various federal agencies' commitments to weighing new rules and studying the specific impacts of AI technologies.

The document emerged after a year-long consultation with more than two dozen different departments, and also incorporates feedback from civil society groups, technologists, industry researchers and tech companies including Palantir and Microsoft.

It suggests five core principles that the White House says should be built into AI systems to limit the impacts of algorithmic bias, give users control over their data and ensure that automated systems are used safely and transparently.

The resulting non-binding

principles cite academic research, agency studies and news reports that have documented real-world harms from AI-powered tools, including facial recognition tools that contributed to wrongful arrests and an automated system that discriminated against loan seekers who attended a Historically Black College or University.

The white paper also said parents and social workers alike could benefit from knowing if child welfare agencies were using algorithms to help decide when families should be investigated for maltreatment.

Earlier this year after the publication of an AP review of an algorithmic tool used in a Pennsylvania child welfare system, OSTP staffers reached out to sources quoted in the article to learn more, according to multiple people who participated in the call.

AP's investigation found that the Allegheny County tool in its first years of operation showed a pattern of flagging a disproportionate number of Black children for a "mandatory" neglect investigation, when compared with white children. In May, sources said Carnegie Mellon University researchers and staffers from the American Civil Liberties Union spoke with OSTP officials about child welfare agencies' use of algorithms. Nelson said protecting children from technology harms remains an area of concern.

OSTP did not provide additional comment about the May meeting.

Still, because many AI-powered tools are developed, adopted or funded at the state and local level, the federal government has limited oversight regarding their use.

The white paper makes no specific mention of how the Biden administration could influence specific policies at state or local levels, but a senior administration official said the administration was exploring how to align federal grants with AI guidance. □



Alondra Nelson speaks during an event at The Queen theater, Jan. 16, 2021, in Wilmington, Del. Associated Press

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Garland is asked to probe threats to children's hospitals

BOSTON (AP) — Three major medical associations have asked Attorney General Merrick Garland to investigate and prosecute people who are threatening violence against children's hospitals and physicians that provide gender-affirming health care.

The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association and the Children's Hospital Association wrote to Garland on Monday. Their demands come amid a spate of threats against doctors and institutions that provide medical care for transgender kids, sometimes including hormones or surgery for older teens.

Children's hospitals nationwide have substantially increased security and are working with law enforcement, while some providers now need constant security, the associations said.

Garland did not immediately comment publicly, and a spokesperson did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment Tuesday.

Massachusetts U.S. Attorney Rachael Rollins said this summer that the Depart-



A woman walks past a sign outside the Boston Children's Hospital, Thursday, Aug. 18, 2022, in Boston.

Associated Press

ment of Justice will ensure equal protection of transgender people under the law.

Rollins said she would not let "hate-based criminal activity" continue in her district after Boston Children's Hospital said in August that its doctors and other staffers were being threatened with violence over its surgical program for transgender youths.

The medical associations said in their letter that the social media threats have continued, coupled with

harassing emails, phone calls and protesters at health care sites, causing "elevated and justifiable fear among families, patients and staff." One hospital's neonatal intensive care unit went on lockdown because of a bomb threat, they said.

"From Boston to Akron to Nashville to Seattle, children's hospitals, academic health systems and physicians are being targeted and threatened for providing evidence-based health care," the letter states.

"These attacks have not only made it difficult and dangerous for institutions and practices to provide this care, they have also disrupted many other services to families seeking care."

The American Medical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics are two of the nation's most influential physician groups, helping shape government policy at the national level and in doctors' offices. The Children's Hospital Association represents more than

220 hospitals serving kids nationwide.

Laws and proposed legislation in several states seeking to limit kids' access to transgender care or criminalize doctors and parents who seek it have emboldened attacks by popular conservative Twitter accounts. Some tweets have misled their large followings about the procedures for gender-affirming care.

Boston Children's became the focus of far-right social media accounts, news outlets and bloggers after they found informational YouTube videos published by the hospital about surgical offerings for transgender patients.

The medical associations argue that the attacks are rooted in an "intentional campaign of disinformation." While Americans agree that online disinformation is a problem, there is widespread apprehension around federal efforts to monitor domestic, online disinformation, with privacy and free speech advocates expressing concerns about the government impinging on free speech rights. □

Trump asks Supreme Court to intervene in Mar-a-Lago dispute

By **ERIC TUCKER**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lawyers for former President Donald Trump asked the U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday to step into the legal fight over the classified documents seized during an FBI search of his Florida estate, escalating a dispute over the powers of an independent arbiter appointed to inspect the records.

The Trump team asked the justices to overturn a lower court ruling and permit an independent arbiter, or special master, to review the roughly 100 documents with classified markings that were taken in the Aug. 8 search of Mar-a-Lago.

A three-judge panel from the Atlanta-based U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit last month lim-

ited the special master's review to the much larger tranche of non-classified documents. The judges, including two Trump appointees, sided with the Justice Department, which had argued there was no legal basis for the special master to conduct his own review of the classified records.

But Trump's lawyers said in their application to the Supreme Court that it was essential for the special master to have access to the classified records to "determine whether documents bearing classification markings are in fact classified, and regardless of classification, whether those records are personal records or Presidential records."

"Since President Trump had absolute authority over classification decisions during his Presidency, the cur-

rent status of any disputed document cannot possibly be determined solely by reference to the markings on that document," the application states.

It says that without the special master review, "the unchallenged views of the current Justice Department

would supersede the established authority of the Chief Executive."

The FBI says it seized roughly 11,000 documents, including about 100 with classification markings, during its search. The Trump team asked a judge in Florida, Aileen Cannon, to appoint

a special master to do an independent review of the records.

Cannon subsequently assigned a veteran Brooklyn judge, Raymond Dearie, to review the records and segregate those that may be protected by claims of attorney-client privilege and executive privilege. The Justice Department objected to Dearie's ability to review the classified records, prompting the 11th Circuit to side with the department.

Trump's lawyers submitted the Supreme Court application to Justice Clarence Thomas, who oversees emergency matters from Florida and several other Southern states. Thomas can act on his own or, as is usually done, refer the emergency appeal to the rest of the court. □



Former President Donald Trump listens to applause from the crowd as he steps up to the podium at a rally Friday, Sept. 23, 2022, in Wilmington, N.C.

Associated Press

Estonian PM says West should heed, not appease Putin threats

By DASHA LITVINOVA

Associated Press

TALLINN, Estonia (AP) — Estonia's prime minister said Tuesday that the West must not give in to Moscow's nuclear threats or premature peace proposals but stand firmly in support of Ukraine as the invaded country fights to rid its occupied territories of Russian soldiers. Kaja Kallas, who has led Estonia's government since last year, told The Associated Press in an interview that "very dangerous" calls for negotiations and peace in Ukraine have come from "very prominent people" lately. She didn't specify anyone by name, but her comments came a day after Tesla CEO Elon Musk floated on Twitter a proposal for ending the war that elicited fierce opposition from Kyiv. Musk, who has been involved in an on and off and reportedly on again deal to buy the social media platform, argued that Russia should be allowed to keep the Crimean Peninsula that it seized in 2014. The four regions Russia annexed following Kremlin-orchestrated "referendums" last month should hold repeat votes organized by



Prime Minister of Estonia Kaja Kallas speaks during an interview with The Associated Press in Tallinn, Estonia, Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2022.

the United Nations, he said. Musk also said that to bring about peace, Ukraine should adopt a neutral status, dropping a bid to join NATO. In her interview with the AP, Kallas recalled the Soviet occupation of Estonia, during which a significant portion of the country's political and social elite was imprisoned, deported or killed. "Even if there is peace, it doesn't mean that the human suffering for those ter-

ritories will end," Kallas said. Russia's war in Ukraine appears to have entered a new, more dangerous phase in recent weeks. Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a call-up of military mobilization of reservists, moved to illegally annex Russian-occupied areas of Ukraine and promised to defend Russian territory "with any means at our disposal," including nuclear weapons. Such threats must be taken seriously "but not

in a sense that, 'Oh, let's give in,'" Kallas said, adding that attempts to appease Putin when he escalates may send the signal that "when you threaten, they will give in." "The nuclear powers of the world have given a very clear signal to Russia: 'When you use (the nuclear weapons), there is no way back.'" The prime minister expressed hope that Russia's embarrassing battlefield setbacks in Ukraine, domes-

tic resistance to Moscow's military mobilization and mounting criticism from Putin's allies mean "we are seeing the beginning of the end of this war." The decision to call up reservists is "meant to intimidate, but it also shows signs of panic on the Russian side, that they have to do this, really. And it's not going in accordance with the plans," Kallas said. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy made a surprise move to apply for fast-tracked NATO membership in response to Putin signing annexation treaties with the Kremlin-installed leaders of the four regions. Nine NATO members including Estonia and the Baltic countries where the war in Ukraine stoked fears about their own security have backed Ukraine's path to membership in the Western security alliance. All NATO members need to approve the request, which has been complicated by the fact that Ukraine is currently at war. Kallas reiterated Estonia's support for Ukraine's NATO ambitions, even though it's "a long way from the application to membership." □

Dutch government announces energy price cap for consumers

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — The Dutch government unveiled details of its planned energy price cap for households Tuesday, together with the outline of a subsidy system aimed at easing the pain for small-to-medium-sized businesses that use a lot of power. The moves come amid soaring prices for gas and electricity caused by Russia's war in Ukraine, and moves across Europe to get a grip on skyrocketing energy bills that have forced some businesses in the Netherlands to halt production. The government said its consumer price cap will start in January and limit electricity to a maximum of 0.40 euros (\$0.40) per kilowatt hour while gas will be a maximum of 1.45 eu-

ros (\$1.45) per cubic meter. Households will still have to pay market rates on any gas they use each month over 1,200 cubic meters or electricity over 2,900 kWh. It said the cap should save a family with average energy use some 2,500 euros in 2023. To help families hit by a cost-of-living crisis this year, all households will receive a discount of 190 euros on their energy bills in November and December, the government said in a statement. At the same time, the government announced it is establishing a scheme to compensate higher energy costs for small and medium businesses that will be based on their energy use and their turnover. Economic Affairs Minister

Micky Adriaansens said that many companies often can't avoid high energy bills because of the nature of their business and can't raise their prices enough to cover the extra costs. "That's why the government is now introducing extra support" via the new system, Adriaansens said. Exact details of the system are being worked out to ensure they adhere to European Union rules on state support for businesses, meaning it will likely not be available until the start of next year. The government said it is working on extra support for businesses until the new subsidies kick in. The new subsidies were announced as a Dutch government delegation led by Prime Minister Mark Rutte met German Chancellor

Olaf Scholz and other ministers in Berlin for talks that covered issues including moves to tackle energy price rises. German Economy Minister Robert Habeck and his Dutch counterpart, Minis-

ter for Climate and Energy Policy Rob Jetten, said Germany and the Netherlands were exploring possible cooperation to promote the market ramp-up of hydrogen produced using renewable energy. □



Mark Rutte, Prime Minister of the Netherlands, makes remarks at a press conference with Chancellor Scholz after the meeting of the German-Dutch Climate Cabinet at the Federal Chancellery in Berlin, Germany, Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2022.

Associated Press

Mexican government considering army-run airline

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's president said Tuesday his government is analyzing the creation of a state-owned, army-run airline that would fly 10 leased airplanes as well as the former presidential jet.

The unusual plan would further boost the army's increasing economic role in Mexico.

The proposal was mentioned in a trove of army documents obtained by the Guacamaya hackers group and on Tuesday, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador confirmed the plan was under consideration.

López Obrador has already placed the armed forces in charge of building trains and airports, running federal law enforcement and a host of other tasks ranging from overseeing vaccine distribution to growing trees for forestry programs.

"An airline is being considered," the president said, adding it could be named "Mexicana" after a defunct, partly state-owned carrier that went into bank-



Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador gives his daily, morning press conference in front of the former presidential plane at Benito Juarez International Airport in Mexico City, July 27, 2020.

ruptcy in 2010, or "something to do with Mexico."

"The economics of it, the feasibility, is being analyzed," he added.

"It is very likely that the new airline will be ready next year."

The idea combines López Obrador's love of state-owned companies he has criticized decisions by pre-

vious administrations to sell off once-extensive government companies and his near-total reliance on the armed forces, which he views as honest and a bulwark against corruption.

Already, a military-led company operates the new Felipe Angeles airport the president ordered built to serve Mexico City, and is

constructing a new airport at the Caribbean coast resort of Tulum.

Apart from boosting traffic at the currently underused Felipe Angeles terminal, the army-run airline would apparently provide flights to feed passengers into the Maya Train tourism project. The army is also constructing that project, which will

connect beach resorts and archaeological sites around the Yucatan Peninsula.

The army, which has no experience running commercial flights, would create a subsidiary in charge of providing air service to tourist resorts served by the Maya Train.

"This company, which is named Olmeca-Maya-Mexica, is going to operate the airport in Chetumal, the airport in Palenque," López Obrador said, referring to other cities on the train route.

López Obrador suggested the new carrier might also serve one of the classic roles of state-owned carriers: providing service to provincial airports on routes that commercial airlines consider unprofitable.

"There are cities where there once were flights and there aren't anymore," he said.

The plan could run afoul of regulations that currently prohibit airlines from running Mexican airports, or vice-versa. □

Associated Press

Colombia and ELN rebels to restart peace talks

By MANUEL RUEDA

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— Delegates of Colombia's government and the nation's largest remaining guerrilla group met on Tuesday and announced that they will restart peace talks that were suspended in 2018.

After meeting in Venezuela's capital city, representatives of the Colombian government and the National Liberation Army issued a statement saying a start date for the peace talks would be announced after the first week of November. The statement also added that Norway, Venezuela and Cuba would be "guarantor states" in the talks, and that the participation of civil society groups would be "essential" for the peace talks to succeed.

A place for the talks has not yet been announced, though ELN commander Antonio Garcia suggested that different stages of the negotiations could be held in Cuba, Norway and Venezuela.

The ELN was founded in the 1960s by students, union leaders and priests that drew inspiration from Cuba's revolution.

The group is believed to have around 4,000 fighters in Colombia and is also present in Venezuela where it runs illegal gold mines and drug trafficking routes.

Following a 2016 peace deal between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, the ELN became the nation's largest remaining guerrilla group. Since then it has increased its activities in territories that

were formerly under FARC control. The group is known for staging kidnappings for ransom and attacks on oil infrastructure and has been listed as a terrorist organization by the United States and the European Union.

Colombia's recently elected President Gustavo Petro is the nation's first leftist leader and has promised to make peace deals with the ELN and several other armed groups in Colombia. He has shifted away from the strategy of the previous government, which suspended talks with the ELN after the rebels refused to stop attacking military targets.

In a press conference that followed the meeting between both sides, Colombia's Peace Commissioner Danilo Rueda said that the ELN had shown changes in its behavior which had en-



Members of the Colombian guerrilla National Liberation Army (ELN), from left, Aureliano Carbone, Pablo Beltran and Antonio Garcia sit with Ivan Danilo Rueda, High Commissioner for Peace on behalf of the Colombian government, second from right, and government representative Ivan Cepeda, during a signing ceremony agreeing to resume peace talks, at the Casa Cultural Aquiles Nazoa in Caracas, Venezuela, Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2022.

Associated Press

abled it to gain the government's trust. Rueda said that the rebel group had recently released hostages and scaled back attacks against the Colombian military.

The ELN did not disclose any details on what it would seek in exchange for laying down its weapons. But

the commander, Garcia, hinted that the group was looking for political and economic changes.

"The way to look for peace is not just by thinking about weapons but by attacking the root causes of this conflict which are inequality and the lack of democracy," Garcia said. □

A prize handed out for the first time in history A.T.A. awarded the first “Destination Resilience Award” from Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association

On Monday, Aruba Tourism Authority (A.T.A.) was awarded the Destination Resilience Award from Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) for the work carried out during the pandemic. This is the first time that this prize was handed out.

The prize was handed out during an award ceremony in San Juan, Puerto Rico as part of the 40th anniversary of CHTA's Caribbean Travel Marketplace. Jamaica, Antigua, Bahamas and St. Lucia were the other islands competing in the same category as Aruba.

Aruba was recognized for its destination policy and the recovery programs that were implemented in order to receive visitors back after the closure of the border.

Ronella Croes, CEO of A.T.A. commented: “We are extremely honored that Aruba can be recognized and receive this prize. Aruba gave its part, and the team working in tourism and other sectors, partners in the private and public sectors, our leaders and the Crisis Team, to mention some. We managed to open the border back in a safe way, and to navigate through various protocols and regulations. This award is proof of these alliances as well as the hard work of our community in order to ensure a strong and sustainable recovery for our island.”

Seeing the fact that this prize originates from the travel and tourism sector, some of the aspects highlighted by A.T.A., among others, that Aruba was recognized with this prize for the efforts to create a hub with all information related to Covid-19 on social media, website as well as eCRM. In this hub, A.T.A. implemented communication campaigns including “Happiness will Prevail”



and “Open for Happiness”, where it was duly communicated about the closing and reopening phases, while a message of hope was created with the consumers and gave them a warm welcome with open arms as soon as it was possible and safe to do this.

The documentation compiled illustrated a lot of other achievements, including digitalization of the immigration platform, introduction of the Aruba Visitors Insurance, hard and successful work of Aruba, which A.T.A. has the honor to ac-

cept. This is a merit to both the public and private sectors that worked closely for the benefit of our tourism, including the entire team of A.T.A. which is the local and international team, as well as key agencies working for Aruba, the ministry of Health and Tourism, AHATA,

AAA, ATSA and many others who played their part in the recovery.

Since the reopening, Aruba experienced a successful recovery. Between April and August 2022, visitor arrivals surpassed the amount of visitors per month for 2019, something that gives assurance that there will be a 100% recovery in global visitors by the end of this year. For 2023, a recovery of 105% compared to 2019 is projected.

During the recognition from CHTA, Bucuti and Tara Beach Resort also won Best Practices Sales and Marketing for their work.

Without the effort of everyone, the Destination Resilience Award would not have been possible.

Many thanks to everyone who forms part of the recovery of Aruba! This award is another step in showing a resilient Aruba, and an Aruba that moves with courage and determination during the historic pandemic that struck the entire world. □





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Aqua Grill restaurant: The taste of New England with Caribbean flair



ORANJESTAD — One thing is for certain: Chef Scott Scheuerman and his team are famous for getting people hooked, just like the fish on your plate. You will get the taste of home fused with Caribbean while dining in elegance. Scheuerman will tell how Aqua Grill established its name since opening in 2002, and why it reaped accolades from such prestigious travel publications as Fodor's, who says, "This hip restaurant is heaven on earth for seafood lovers, who will find fresh fish galore..." Now is your chance to taste Aqua Grill's NEW seasonal menu and create a lifetime culinary memory.

'A Scheuer thing'

Secretly, we all know that the success of a restaurant begins in the kitchen. That is where the chef creates his magic and for Aqua Grill the culinary team has won an assortment of awards for their continuous delivery of 'haute-cuisine del mar.' Classic seafood is mingled with contemporary ideas resulting in surprising dishes that soon made the restaurant a must-dine, confirmed by established travel media specialists like Fodor's and Frommer's. American-born Scheuerman, executive chef of Aqua Grill, is thrilled about 'his restaurant'. "We started out as a New England style seafood restaurant, patterned after Boston style. But we quickly blended into some Caribbean, local flair... if you will. We do still offer the traditional New England dishes like whole Maine lobster, northern seafood plates like the salmon, tuna and swordfish. We buy also from the local fisherman to offer Caribbean dishes like snapper and grouper which are number one sellers in our restaurant being



the most prevalent local fishes. Catches like wahoo, mahi mahi and brasil are welcome too, anything that comes out of the water we embrace."

Fresh import from Boston

Aqua Grill flies in their own shipments on a weekly basis mostly from Boston because the price quality balance is the best, says the chef. "We are unique in this. Number one priority is buying fresh, we mean not frozen. Our original concept is New England seafood and we stick to that concept. They have a wonderful assortment of oysters and lobsters as well." Aqua Grill also offers international fusion type of menu items; actually all you wish for is there. A very balanced menu awaits you. "And we have options for meat lovers and vegetarians/vegans too. We, however, do not mix it up too much because we believe we do not want to lose our identity as a seafood restaurant," Scheuerman adds.

Sublime menu

Now is the time to indulge in Aqua Grill's dinner experience. The established restaurant offers a sensational menu. We present to you a Raw Bar with among others fresh Oysters on the half Shell, Littleneck Clams, Peruvian Ceviche and Lobster Salad. Steamed Dumplings and Prawns or Steamed Mussels seduce you from the open view kitchen. After that continue your gastronomic trip to heaven with the house specialties like Main Lobster, steamed or broiled or maybe you crave for the best Alaska King Crab Legs you have ever tasted? You haven't reached your destination yet because there are more main course options to blow you away: Seared Chilean Sea Bass,

Cioppino or Blackened Tuba are just some to mention.

Take a pick out of Aqua Grill's delicious desserts to finally conclude yes, this beats it all. We will be back for more. □

Aqua Grill

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Honoring of loyal visitors at Marriot Aruba Surf Club

EAGLE BEACH - Recently, Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure in honoring many loyal Aruba visitors with their distinctive certificates. These certificates are a way to say "Masha Danki" for continuously choosing Aruba as a favorite vacation destination. The titles are as following: 10+ years "Distinguished Visitor", 20+ years "Goodwill Ambassador" and 36+ years "Emerald Ambassador".

The honorees were Marcy Acevedo and Iris Rivera who are residents of New

Jersey, United States and were honored as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba.

This symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between the 10-20-35 and more consecutive year mark.

Their reasons for returning to Aruba are the friendliness of the people, the beautiful beaches and sunsets, the wonderful weather and tradewinds, the direct flights from the

United States and the fact that it's outside of the Hurricane belt.

Ms. Olga Ruiz representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and members of the Marriott's Aruba Surf Club bestowed the certification of the Ambassadors and presented the Ambassadors with gifts, and thanked them on behalf of the Government of Aruba for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination for so many years. The Honorees can now call Aruba their home away from home. □



Weather Update

The Aruba Weather Watch keeps the community and our visitors informed with any developments in regards to the weather, as well as any other phenomenon's that could be taking place around the Caribbean islands.

In the most recent update issued, the Aruba Weather Watch spoke of a broad area of low pressure located a couple of hundred miles east of the southern Windward Islands that is producing an area of showers and thunderstorms to the southeast of an ill-defined center.

The upper-level winds are likely to become more conducive for development, and a tropical depression could form during the next couple of days, if the system stays far enough away from land while moving westward at about 15 mph across the



Windward Islands and southeastern Caribbean Sea. Conditions appear to become more conducive for development later this week when the system reaches the central and western Caribbean Sea.

Regardless of the development, locally heavy rainfall and gusty winds are expected over portions of the Windward Islands tonight and Wednesday. Interests in the Windward Islands, the ABC Islands, and the northern coast of Venezuela should monitor the progress of this system. An Air Force Reserve Hurricane Hunter aircraft is currently investigating this system.

There is also a tropical wave located south and east of the islands with a low chance of developing into a tropical cyclone within 2 days at 40%, and a medium chance of developing into a tropical cyclone in 5 days at 70%. □

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Article by Etnia Nativa

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Red earth as top inspiration

Episode CLXXIV - 174

Etnia Nativa through Island Insight shares native cultural awareness educates and safeguards Aruba's heritage and encourage readers to experiment an island keeper state of mind. Discover the true native reasons of concern in one and every episode.

Experience more reasons to love Aruba as destination and live out your island adventure in an authentic revealing way. Our island is a tiny tourist destination with a fragile ecosystem which covers thousands of years of history. Here is when Etnia Nativa's main objective comes to mind, sharing information through education.

In this episode we elaborate a bit upon the different colors that the Aruban landscape may offers depending on the weather. Looking at the deep blue and turquoise tones of the sea which presents a contrast to the shocking blue of the sky, without realizing the state of a total nirvana this experience evokes. Surprised by the green tones of the vegetation contrasting with the radiant yellow of cacti, agave and *quibra hacha blossoms boosted by our radiant sun, taking our attention to the impeccable white sand of our beaches and the various tones of red of the clay soil. This envelops us in a mystical state of mind that only this place can induce. Our association with the color ocher is inherited from an ancestor origin. Ocher is a clay-rich pigment that indicates the presence of significant amounts of iron oxide and, at the same time, the absence of carbonates, which have already been washed away by time. Ocher is a natural clayey earth pigment, a mixture of ferric oxide, clay and sand and the first known pigment used by ancient cultures and a very common find in archaeological sites. The first possible use of ocher discovered, is from a Homo erectus site of about 285,000 years ago. Here we begin to solve the mystery behind



a trek through the arid soil of Aruba- (see episode CIV-104).

In 2014, the Spanish paleontologist Carlos Duarte suggested that the use of ocher as a pigment where applied in tattoos - we know that it was ingested in archaic times - which may have had an important role in human evolution, since it would have been a direct source of iron to the human brain.

In Aruba, Red ocher pigment was applied in many forms by ancient native cultures. On buddy decoration, ceramic designs, in religious ceremonies and in lime stone caves and granite surfaces as rock art - (Weburi, Piedra Plat- see episode XIV- 14).

As one of the objectives of Etnia Nativa is to keep ancestral techniques alive, we teach how to work the raw clay from digging it up- as our ancestors did- until enjoying molding a unique and exquisite piece of local collected clay.

Through silent art - "Ars Muta" - of working with native clay where the silence of the work is only apparent because nothing is more eloquent for those who knows how to search and have the authentic inherited wisdom to work "from my soul to your soul", without "intermediaries".

The process begins by guiding each participant to the specific place where

the clay is preserved intact, thus learning to identify the best raw material and to distinguish high-quality material from the rest of the earth. Once this raw material has been extracted, it will be necessary to carry out purification work with water that will clean and detoxify the material to end up in dehydration and finally obtain the raw clay.

The goal of keeping ancient native clay methods alive and incorporating cultural philosophies intact has a cultural responsibility on its own.

The traditional craftsmanship that we practice is the most tangible manifestation of Aruba's intangible cultural heritage through which the mysterious red color of our soil is resolved in an existential tree dimensional form!

If you love Aruba its origins and its cultural heritage, be part of the exclusive visitors of Etnia Nativa: a cozy museum/home.

Etnia Nativa a private residential houses collections of native art, archaeological artifacts and historic furniture, while the facilities themselves are the result of the transformation of recycled materials. Meet Anthony Croes a native artist and our columnist at his home! Book your visit Whatsapp + 297 592 2702- or mail: etnianativa03@gmail.com

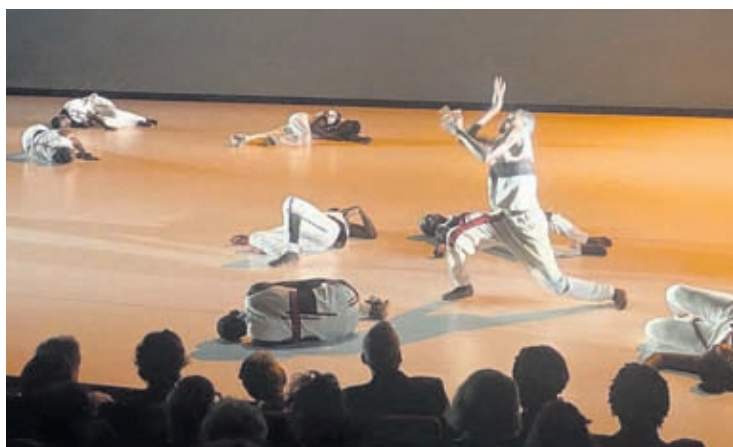


Plenipotentiary minister of Aruba in the Netherlands present during opening of Black Achievement Month in Amsterdam

THE HAGUE – Interim Plenipotentiary Minister of Aruba in the Netherlands, mr. Ady Thijsen and his wife, Yshel Thijsen-Rasmijn were present during the opening of Black Achievement Month at the Internationaal Theater Amsterdam. Also in attendance was the interim Plenipotentiary minister of Sint Maarten, Richard Panneflek.

Before the program, the minister and his wife were welcomed by the known artist and ex-politician, John Leerdam. The guests enjoyed a presentation of the dance group Sigui-fin, which is the collective result of a choreographic process on the initiative of French-Senegalese choreographer Amala Dianor. Together with Alioune Diagne from Senegal, Ladji Kone from Burkina Faso and Naomi Fall from Mali, they worked together with nine young dancers on a composition of which aspects of individuality, social cohesion and cultural differences formed part.

The Black Achievement Month takes place every



year during the month of October. The festival has the goal of exposing extraordinary talent of persons who have African roots and bring this to the



attention of the Dutch public. □

The images are courtesy of Arubahuis.

Project announced for beautification of Hooiberg

ORANJESTAD – Monday morning during a press conference at the Hooiberg, minister of Public Health and Tourism, Mr. Dangui Oduber announced a project for the beautification of Hooiberg.

This took place in the presence of minister president Evelyn Wever-Croes, minister of Sport and Education, Endy Croes and various members of parliament from the MEP faction. This is another project to contribute to elevate the product Aruba, according to a press release.

The project for the beautification of Hooiberg will be executed with funds from Aruba Tourism Authority (A.T.A.) and the Tourism Product Enhancement

Fund (TPEF). The first phase of the project where the steps were fixed and the entry to the hut was renovated in the past was done with funds from TPEF. In the following phase, A.T.A. will finance the refurbishing of

the existing lookout. Together with A.T.A. a new lookout will be constructed at the top of Hooiberg so that the local community and the tourists can enjoy a 360 degree view of our island.

Also, together with TPEF the steps at the Hooiberg will be fixed using our local artists, who will give the steps an artistic touch with mosaic. The goal is for Hooiberg to become a colorful attraction for the local

community as well as our tourists.

In the coming weeks the public tender will begin where all local companies get the opportunity to send in an offer. If everything goes according to plan, this project must be delivered by the beginning of 2023, minister Oduber declared.

Minister Oduber mentioned that Aruba is a high quality destination, and our visitors pay good money to come to Aruba. This is why it's important that we continue improving the product Aruba so that our visitors get the value for which they pay. All this, according to the press release, is in the context of diversification for our tourist destination. □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 41 Transmit
1 Print 42 Bank sub-
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6 Affection-
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10 Visibly
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13 Prepare to
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19 Be armed

22 Cooking
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26 Roadster's
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29 "East of
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32 — Gatos

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36 — avis

37 Half note

38 Karate
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39 Acid type

40 Taos
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7 Last

8 Seasonal

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27 Took the

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29 Pop

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Yesterday's answer

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34			35			36		
37					38			
39					40			
41					42			

10-5

A X Y D L B A A X R
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-5

CRYPTOQUOTE

S T L K C Z R F Z C R S S N X K F

R O R T W I P K W T Z O K Z C

B F T C Q T W Z P K L R S S — L C B N Z Z

L T Z H O K F R S V

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: GREAT THINGS ARE NOT DONE BY IMPULSE, BUT BY A SERIES OF SMALL THINGS BROUGHT TOGETHER. — VINCENT VAN GOGH



A Goodwill store sign is shown in Berkeley, Calif., Tuesday, March 9, 2021.

Associated Press

Iconic Goodwill gets serious with online for thrifters

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Thrifters who flock to Goodwill stores will now be able to do more of their treasure hunting online.

The 120-year-old nonprofit organization on Tuesday launched GoodwillFinds, a newly incorporated shopping venture that is making roughly 100,000 donated items available for purchase online and expanding Goodwill's internet presence that until now had been limited to auction sites like ShopGoodwill.com or individual stores selling donations online via eBay and Amazon.

GoodwillFinds' goal is to have 1 million items on its site in a few years, said Matthew Kannes, newly appointed CEO of online shopping arm, which features search tools that let shoppers browse by category. Eventually GoodwillFinds will be able to be personalized based on a customer's past purchases. The new venture will support Goodwill Industries International Inc. by helping fund its community-based programs across the U.S. provide professional training, job placement and youth mentorship. It should also increase donations, while also helping to expand its base of customers. Unlike rivals like Thredup and Poshmark, customers cannot use GoodwillFinds to make donations and will still have to visit one of the organization's 3,300 U.S.

and Canadian Goodwill stores to drop them off for now. But Kannes said that as the business expands, Goodwill will eventually offer that service.

The move comes as the second-hand clothing business is expected to grow 16 times faster than the broader retail clothing sector by 2026, according to a report by research firm GlobalData for Thredup. It's also happening at a time when surging inflation is pushing shoppers to be thrifter.

"Our new social enterprise makes it easier for the conscious consumer to shop sustainably online, while heightening the thrifting experience they've come to love at Goodwill," Kannes said.

In 2021, retail revenue from donations to Goodwill was more than \$5.4 billion, the organization said. GoodwillFinds follows in the footsteps of ShopGoodwill.com, which launched in 1999 and sells many items via auction.

"Goodwill is a very big part of the second-hand market, but it's been focused on stores. That is its heritage," said Neil Saunders, managing director at GlobalData Retail, "Online has been an afterthought and done very informally with the regions."

Kannes said that when shoppers donate to the stores, workers will figure out which item will be designated online. Workers inspect each item but they

don't clean it. If it is very dirty or not good quality, they won't sell it. Items designated for online will then be digitized. Purchases will either be packed and shipped from the store or a cluster of stores' mini-warehouses.

A spokeswoman for the online venture said that because items from GoodwillFinds ship from a variety of Goodwill locations, shipping options and fees will vary per item. During the checkout process, customers will be offered the shipping options available for their items based on their shipping address. She said that GoodwillFinds accepts returns for items that arrive damaged or if there's an inaccurate or incorrect item in the customer's order.

The vision for GoodwillFinds came from a consortium of Goodwill members throughout the country, including Evergreen Goodwill of Northwest Washington, which wanted to tap into the organization's full potential.

Daryl Campbell, the CEO of Evergreen Goodwill of Northwest Washington, said he expects that revenue for his consortium of 24 stores in his area will double from the \$24 million it did last year within the next five years because of the centralized online approach. He also predicts that he will be able to double its online business to 32% of its consortium's sales in the next few years. □



Retired professor Dr. David Etnier (center) and a group of scientists check the state of the snail darter in the Holston River north of Knoxville, Tenn., on April 9, 2008.

Associated Press

Snail darter, focus of epic conservation fight, is recovered

By **TRAVIS LOLLER**
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)

— The snail darter, a tiny Southeastern fish that derailed a federal dam during an epic battle over Endangered Species Act protection in the 1970s, is no longer considered imperiled, officials announced Tuesday.

The fish held up construction of the Tellico Dam in Tennessee for more than two years as biologists and others fought to protect its only known habitat, the free-flowing Little Tennessee River. The battle, which went to the U.S. Supreme Court and beyond, is still sometimes cited as an example of environmentalist overreach, although the reality is much more complicated.

The dam eventually was built, with snail darters collected and transplanted into other rivers. They were also later discovered in several additional streams. Snail darters went from being considered an endangered species in 1975 to a threatened species in 1984 as they continued to recover. Three years ago, the Center for Biological Diversity, Jim Williams and Zygmunt Plater petitioned to remove the fish from federal protection altogether. Williams is the biologist who listed the snail darter as endangered. Plater is the at-

torney who sued to protect it.

The U.S. Department of the Interior on Tuesday announced the snail darter's official removal from the federal list of threatened and endangered wildlife. It is the fifth fish species, and the first in the eastern United States, to be delisted because the population has recovered, according to the agency.

Interior Secretary Deb Haaland in a news release called the fish's recovery "a remarkable conservation milestone that tells a story about how controversy and polarization can evolve into cooperation and a big conservation success." □

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Loretta Lynn, coal miner's daughter and country queen, dies

By KRISTIN M. HALL AP Entertainment Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Loretta Lynn, the Kentucky coal miner's daughter whose frank songs about life and love as a woman in Appalachia pulled her out of poverty and made her a pillar of country music, has died. She was 90.

In a statement provided to The Associated Press, Lynn's family said she died Tuesday at her home in Hurricane Mills, Tennessee. "Our precious mom, Loretta Lynn, passed away peacefully this morning, October 4th, in her sleep at home in her beloved ranch in Hurricane Mills," the family said in a statement. They asked for privacy as they grieve and said a memorial will be announced later.

Lynn already had four children before launching her career in the early 1960s, and her songs reflected her pride in her rural Kentucky background.

As a songwriter, she crafted a persona of a defiantly tough woman, a contrast to the stereotypical image of most female country singers. The Country Music Hall of Famer wrote fearlessly about sex and love, cheating husbands, divorce and birth control and sometimes got in trouble with radio programmers for material from which even rock performers once shied away.

Her biggest hits came in the 1960s and '70s, including "Coal Miner's Daughter," "You Ain't Woman Enough," "The Pill," "Don't Come Home a Drinkin' (With Lovin' on Your Mind)," "Rated X" and "You're Looking at Country." She was known for appearing in floor-length, wide gowns with elaborate embroidery or rhinestones, many created by her longtime personal assistant and designer Tim Cobb.

Her honesty and unique place in country music was rewarded. She was the first woman ever named entertainer of the year at the genre's two major awards shows, first by the Country Music Association in 1972 and then by the Acade-



Country music great Loretta Lynn poses for a portrait in September 2000 in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

my of Country Music three years later.

"It was what I wanted to hear and what I knew other women wanted to hear, too," Lynn told the AP in 2016. "I didn't write for the men; I wrote for us women. And the men loved it, too." In 1969, she released her autobiographical "Coal Miner's Daughter," which helped her reach her widest audience yet.

"Coal Miner's Daughter," also the title of her 1976 book, was made into a 1980 movie of the same name. Sissy Spacek's portrayal of Lynn won her an Academy Award and the film was also nominated for best picture.

Long after her commercial peak, Lynn won two Grammys in 2005 for her album "Van Lear Rose," which featured 13 songs she wrote, including "Portland, Oregon" about a drunken one-night stand. "Van Lear Rose" was a collaboration with rocker Jack White, who produced the album and played the guitar parts.

Reba McEntire was among the stars who reacted to Lynn's death, posting online about how the singer reminded her of her late mother. "Strong women, who loved their children and were fiercely loyal. Now they're both in Heav-

en getting to visit and talk about how they were raised, how different country music is now from what it was when they were young. Sure makes me feel good that Mama went first so she could welcome Loretta into the hollers of heaven!"

Born Loretta Webb, the second of eight children, she claimed her birthplace was Butcher Holler, near the coal mining company town of Van Lear in the mountains of east Kentucky.

There really wasn't a Butcher Holler, however. She later told a reporter that she made up the name for the purposes of the song based on the names of the families that lived there.

Her daddy played the banjo, her mama played the guitar and she grew up on the songs of the Carter Family. Her younger sister, Crystal Gayle, is also a Grammy-winning country singer, scoring crossover hits with songs like "Don't It Make My Brown Eyes Blue" and "Half the Way." Lynn's daughter Patsy Lynn Russell also was a songwriter and producer of some of her albums.

"I was singing when I was born, I think," she told the AP in 2016. "Daddy used to come out on the porch where I would be singing

and rocking the babies to sleep. He'd say, 'Loretta, shut that big mouth. People all over this holler can hear you.' And I said, 'Daddy, what difference does it make? They are all my cousins.'"

She wrote in her autobiography that she was 13 when she got married to Oliver "Mooney" Lynn, but the AP later discovered state records that showed she was 15. Tommy Lee Jones played Mooney Lynn in the biopic.

Her husband, whom she called "Doo" or "Doolittle," urged her to sing professionally and helped promote her early career. With his help, she earned a recording contract with Decca Records, later MCA, and performed on the Grand Ole Opry stage. Lynn wrote her first hit single, "I'm a Honky Tonk Girl," released in 1960.

She also teamed up with singer Conway Twitty to form one of the most popular duos in country music with hits such as "Louisiana Woman, Mississippi Man" and "After the Fire is Gone," which earned them a Grammy Award. Their duets, and her single records, were always mainstream country and not crossover or pop-tinged.

And when she first started singing at the Grand Ole

Opry, country star Patsy Cline took Lynn under her wing and mentored her during her early career.

The Academy of Country Music chose her as the artist of the decade for the 1970s, and she was elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1988. She won four Grammy Awards, was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2008, was honored at the Kennedy Center Honors in 2003 and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2013. In "Fist City," Lynn threatens a hair-pulling fistfight if another woman won't stay away from her man: "I'm here to tell you, gal, to lay off of my man/If you don't want to go to Fist City." That strong-willed but traditional country woman reappears in other Lynn songs. In "The Pill," a song about sex and birth control, Lynn sings about how she's sick of being trapped at home to take care of babies: "The feelin' good comes easy now/Since I've got the pill," she sang.

She moved to Hurricane Mills, Tennessee, outside of Nashville, in the 1990s, where she set up a ranch complete with a replica of her childhood home and a museum that is a popular roadside tourist stop. The dresses she was known for wearing are there, too. Lynn knew that her songs were trailblazing, especially for country music, but she was just writing the truth that so many rural women like her experienced.

"I could see that other women was goin' through the same thing, 'cause I worked the clubs.

I wasn't the only one that was livin' that life and I'm not the only one that's gonna be livin' today what I'm writin'," she told The AP in 1995. Even into her later years, Lynn never seemed to stop writing, scoring a multi-album deal in 2014 with Legacy Records, a division of Sony Music Entertainment. In 2017, she suffered a stroke that forced her to stop touring, but she released her 50th solo studio album, "Still Woman Enough" in 2021. □

International prospects flock to London for NFL tryout

By **KEN MAGUIRE**
AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — Jason Godrick plans to “dominate” as an NFL offensive lineman. The first hurdle seems like a big one, though.

“I’ve never played an organized game of football before,” the 6-foot-5, 293-pound Nigerian said. “I’ve been blessed to be a quick learner, a very good student.”

The 21-year-old Lagos native, who goes by “Chu,” was one of the more than 40 prospects representing 13 countries who competed in the NFL’s international combine Tuesday at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

They’re hoping to join the league’s International Player Pathway program.

Godrick switched from basketball to football in January coaches were impressed by his hoops “mix-tape” and a few months later he saw countryman Roy Mbaeteka sign with the New York Giants despite having not played in high school or college.

“Roy is a big inspiration for



Offensive lineman Jason Godrick, of Nigeria, center, takes part in the NFL International Combine at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London, Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2022.

Associated Press

us back home,” Godrick said of the 6-9, 320-pound offensive tackle. “It was very big in Nigeria when he got signed.”

Mbaeteka, who was released from the Giants practice squad last week, had participated in last year’s combine in London

and earned an invitation to the Pathway program, whose most notable alum is Philadelphia Eagles offensive lineman Jordan Mailata of Australia.

Godrick, like several other Nigerian prospects on Tuesday, came through a program run by former

Giants defensive end Osi Umenyiora. The two-time Super Bowl winner was on hand at Tottenham’s stadium, where his former team plays the Green Bay Packers on Sunday.

“They have the athletic ability, they have the size, a lot of them have the

speed. All they need is just the technique refinement,” said the British-born Umenyiora, who spent part of his childhood in Nigeria.

A handful of the prospects at the combine have some U.S. college exposure, but many have played only in European leagues or universities or not at all. Some are in their mid-20s. Many work regular jobs.

Emmanuel Falola, an inside linebacker with the Bristol Aztecs, is an accountant. The East London native took the day off for the combine.

“I haven’t been taking time off to prepare though I’ve been working and preparing,” said the 24-year-old Falola, who also tried out last year.

Those selected for the Pathway program will begin training in the U.S. in January and could join rookies in minicamps in May.

“We don’t have that much time, especially the guys that come from other sports,” said Will Bryce, head of football development for NFL International. □

USA Curling: CEO prioritized athlete safety as head of NWSL

EAGAN, Minn. (AP) — USA Curling says CEO Jeff Plush “acted in accordance with prioritizing the safety of athletes” during his tenure as leader of the National Women’s Soccer League, where an investigation uncovered years of systemic emotional abuse and sexual misconduct.

The curling board met Monday after a report on the independent investigation into the abuses in women’s soccer.

The soccer investigation found Plush, who was commissioner of the NWSL from 2014 to 2017, was aware of allegations of sexual harassment and coercion against Portland Thorns coach Paul Riley, but did not do anything to prevent Riley from continuing to coach in

the league. Former acting U.S. Attorney General Sally Yates, who led the soccer investigation, said Plush did not respond to requests for an interview.

In a news release, the curling board said it would “navigate forward in a way that reviews fact and prioritizes safety for all.”

U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee CEO Sarah Hirshland sent a letter to staff that said the federation was in contact with USA Curling about the investigations.

“We understand they are reviewing the findings of this investigation as well as the findings of their own investigation conducted previously” about Plush’s role at NWSL, Hirshland wrote.

The USOPC was forced into sweeping reforms in the wake of sexual abuse scandals, including that former USA Gymnastics team doctor Larry Nassar, who sexually abused hundreds of female gymnasts. “Our resolve to make Olympic and Paralympic sport participation safe for everyone guides our work every day,” Hirshland said. “And yet we know, this work is never done.”

The report on the soccer investigation said Thorns player Mana Shim informed Plush in 2015 about Riley’s advances, as well as his retaliation when she asked him to stop.

Plush forwarded Shim’s email to U.S. Soccer, but the league took no action against Riley. □



USA athletes cast the rock to sweep and curl while competing at the U.S. Olympic Curling Team Trials at Baxter Arena in Omaha, Neb., on Nov. 18, 2021.

Associated Press

Analysis: NFL isn't passing the eye test on head injuries

By **ARNIE STAPLETON**
AP Pro Football Writer

What happened in Tampa was the last thing the NFL, its players and its fanbase needed three days after Tua Tagovailoa's horrifying head injury called into question the league's commitment to curbing concussions.

Buccaneers tight end Cameron Brate sat out the second half of Sunday night's 41-31 loss to the Kansas City Chiefs with a concussion after colliding with a teammate and initially being allowed to re-enter the game.

Brate was shaken up just before halftime after catching a pass for a 9-yard gain and colliding with Bucs receiver Chris Godwin while being tackled. Brate stayed down for a few seconds before heading for the sideline, but he didn't get off the field fast enough for Tampa Bay to avoid a penalty for having too many men on the field on the next play.

Brate re-entered the game and was Tom Brady's intended receiver on multiple incompletions just before halftime.

Coach Todd Bowles said after the game that Brate was in the concussion protocol but was unable to explain why he was allowed to re-enter the game with a head injury.

A day later, Bowles said it was because Brate experienced delayed symptoms of a concussion at halftime after initially complaining only of shoulder discomfort and being allowed to return to the game.

"Broken system," tweeted Hall of Fame coach Tony Dungy, who was in attendance in his role as analyst for NBC's "Football Night in America."

"I was on the sideline very close to Brate — obvious he had his bell rung," Dungy continued. "There's a league appointed spotter in the press box who should stop play & alert the referee. Brate shouldn't have been allowed to return until after an evaluation. Why didn't that happen???"

Dungy added: "Coaches, team doctors and game



Miami Dolphins head coach Mike McDaniel walks away as quarterback Tua Tagovailoa is taken off the field on a stretcher during the first half of an NFL football game against the Cincinnati Bengals, Thursday, Sept. 29, 2022, in Cincinnati.

Associated Press

officials are all watching play and can all step in. But the league appointed spotter has the ability to buzz the referee, stop the game and mandate that player leave the game to be evaluated — no penalty or timeout charged to the team."

Bowles said Monday that Brate was checked out three times before being allowed to re-enter the game with the Bucs driving for a touchdown that trimmed Tampa Bay's deficit to 28-17 at halftime. Brate said "nothing about his head" while complaining of shoulder discomfort, Bowles said.

The NFL's concussion and diagnosis protocol states that potential signs of a concussion include: "Slow to get up from the ground or return to play following a hit to the head" which "may include secondary contact with the playing surface," and "motor coordination/balance problems of neurologic etiology (stumbles, trips/falls, slow/

labored movement)." Bowles said Brate was re-examined at halftime after symptoms arose and "we kept him out the rest of the game." That did little to placate critics who say Tagovailoa never should have been allowed to suit up against the Cincinnati Bengals on Thursday night, just four days after Miami's quarterback came up stumbling when his head hit the ground in a game against the Buffalo Bills on Sept. 25. Tagovailoa initially seemed to exhibit concussion symptoms against Buffalo, but he was cleared by a team physician and unaffiliated neurotrauma consultant, or UNC, to return to the game. He and the team later explained his legs were wobbly because of a back injury. Still, the league and its players' union began a joint review into Tagovailoa's quick return to the Bills game that is ongoing. When Tagovailoa sustained a concussion four days later at Cincinnati, the

UNC who cleared him from entering concussion protocol against Buffalo was fired by the union, and the league and the union said changes were needed to the concussion protocol. The league and the NFL-PA issued a statement last week that said they had made no conclusions about "medical errors or protocol violations" while the investigation is still underway. But the two added that "modifications are needed ... to enhance player safety."

Tagovailoa's concussion was topic No. 1 across the NFL heading into Sunday's slate of games, and coaches across the league spoke about safety being the game's top priority. Then came Sunday night when Brate kept playing despite a head injury.

"IT HAPPENED AGAIN @NFL!" tweeted Chris Nowinski, a founder of the Concussion Legacy Foundation who played football at Harvard and is adamant Tagovailoa sustained a

concussion against Buffalo and shouldn't have played at Cincinnati. "Cam Brate went back in 4 plays after showing #concussion signs from this huge hit to the head. He stayed down too long & couldn't run off the field fast enough to avoid a penalty," Nowinski fumed, adding that Dungy "says it was obvious he had a concussion. How did he go back in?"

Bowles said an unaffiliated neurotrauma consultant did not ask the Bucs to test Brate for a concussion.

"Nobody called down. He was checked out three times. He went back in until the end of the half. The concussion thing didn't come up until halftime. He had delayed symptoms," Bowles repeated.

Bowles acknowledged "it was noticeable hit, but again it was on the shoulder. Nobody said anything about the head."

Given what happened to Tagovailoa just 72 hours earlier, somebody certainly should have. □